Creative Solutions for Stabilizing Conflict

The Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) is a vital part of the ambitious U.S. effort to be more effective in helping prevent conflict and supporting post-conflict nations with recovery. CSO advances U.S. national security by working with partners in priority countries to break cycles of violent conflict, strengthen civilian security, and mitigate crisis. Guided by local dynamics and data-driven analysis, CSO works quickly with partners inside and outside government to devise solutions for the full spectrum of conflict, from prevention to crisis response to stabilization.

Agile. Innovative. Responsive. Results-Driven.

Where We Work

CSO is working in more than 20 countries. Our top-priority initiatives are:

- **Syria**: Providing Syrian civilian opposition groups the skills, knowledge, networks and equipment to interrupt cycles of violence and shape the critical first year of Syria's political transition
- **Kenya**: Promoting a peaceful and credible election in 2013 by working with the U.S. Embassy, the Kenyan government, and civil society organizations on conflict prevention and electoral security
- **Honduras**: Reducing drug- and gang-related violence through support for public security reform and expanding judicial and investigative capacity.
- **Burma**: Supporting the efforts of the government, minority populations, civil society and other stakeholders to address landmines, including raising awareness, clearing minefields and supporting victims

CSO deploys a wide range of civilian talent quickly to address the causes of conflict around the world. Recent examples include:

- **Liberia**: After a government commission failed to determine the cause of a fatal election-related incident, CSO dispatched an investigator who helped unearth evidence that led to police suspensions, further investigation, and action from the Liberian president.
- **Zimbabwe**: CSO and local partners interviewed more than 900 Zimbabweans from around the country to identify opportunities for the U.S. and international community to support stability.
- **Libya:** After supporting the post-Qadhafi transition, CSO is helping next-generation leaders address militia violence, encourage inclusive governance, and attract foreign investment to stabilize the country.
- **Counter-Lord's Resistance Army:** CSO is countering the Lord's Resistance Army by encouraging defections and working across four countries with local partners, militaries, governments and policymakers.
- **South Sudan:** Deploying stabilization officers across remote areas, CSO supported a peaceful transition to independence through engagement with local leaders on longstanding grievances.

Criteria for Targeted Engagement

- Opportunity for **strategic impact within 12 months**
- Address **national security priorities**
- Development of **women and youth leaders**
- Leverage **local ownership** and partnership
- Ability to test and evaluate **innovative approaches**

We will make conflict prevention and response a core mission of the State Department and USAID.

– Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton